

Enright Denies Distorting Data About Police

Commissioner Contradicts Charges by Wallstein Regarding "Squeal Book" and Statistics Bureau

Accuser Renews Attack

Member of Citizens Union Says Department Head Is Shifting the Issue

Police Commissioner Richard E. Enright, who has been accused by Leonard M. Wallstein, former Commissioner of Accounts, of suppressing facts and distorting statistics in connection with the work of the Police Department, issued a long contradiction yesterday.

This was embodied in a letter to Mayor Hylan, made public yesterday afternoon. Last evening Mr. Wallstein returned to the attack, contradicting the contradictions of the Commissioner.

The conflict between the Commissioner of Police and the former Commissioner of Accounts, raises chiefly about four main points. These are the abolition by Enright of the daily record, or "squeal book," in which all complaints were listed in the past; the alleged distortion of statistics by the Police Commissioner; the question of the economical administration of the department; and the abolition of the Bureau of Statistics.

At a late hour last night the military situation on these four fronts stood as follows:

"Squeal Book"

On Monday Mr. Wallstein charged that through the abolition of this book and the substitution of card files policemen were given great leeway in the matter of reporting crimes that had been committed. Cards, he pointed out, could be lost from the file, while cases listed in the Daily Record could not be lost. He charged that the new system was a deliberate attempt to suppress the record of the department.

Commissioner Enright: "The so-called Daily Record method gave an inaccurate picture of the crime statistics, as complaints made to the branch detective bureau were seldom entered on the records until they had been investigated."

At the present time, when a complaint of a crime is received, it is reported to the precinct desk lieutenant, and a report is made of the complaint and the original card is placed in the file. The card is then placed in the file of the precinct, one of whom acknowledges receipt by his signature thereon, adds the detective bureau office serial number and returns it immediately to the precinct desk lieutenant where it is filed according to its crime classification.

Mr. Wallstein (last night): "Enright claims that his loose card system of original entries is more reliable than the former book record. All the safeguards of cross-checking which Enright says are now applied to the card system were instituted in the Woods administration with reference to the original book record. Therefore, to claim that the loose card system is better than the book system is sheer nonsense, because the accuracy of the whole structure obviously turns upon the permanence of the original record and the difficulty or ease of destroying, altering or replacing it without detection."

Alleged Distortion of Statistics

Mr. Wallstein on Monday referred to the demonstrated untruthfulness of the Police Commissioner in his departmental report.

Commissioner Enright: "Leonard Wallstein, ex-Commissioner of Accounts, and now employee of a public official (Belling) organization called the Citizens' Union, has recently published a thoroughly misleading and false statement regarding the administration of the Police Department."

"It is the usual custom of the Citizens' Union to malign people who do not agree with or submit quietly to the methods pursued by their crowd. The people are beginning to know their methods and the statements they make do not need a reply."

Mr. Wallstein (last night): "My charge was that Enright's change of the book record system of crime record lends itself to manipulation and that, tampered with reduced attention to statistical compilation, facilitates the juggling of statistics and the falsification of the facts."

Apparently the change has resulted as Enright has been expected. Enright reported in the Mayor's report that there were 55 fewer burglaries in the first three months of 1919 than in the corresponding period of 1918. His own system of recording complaints on loose cards probably shows that situation. But the burglary insurance companies report figures indicating a 50 per cent increase of burglaries for the 1919 period over that of last year.

When Enright demoted Inspector Costigan to captain he gave out statistics calculated to show that the demotion was merited by a poor record of arrests. Later Enright was forced to admit that his statistics were incorrect."

Economical Administration

Mr. Wallstein charged originally that the police department was being conducted extravagantly, and that fictitious reports of economies had been made.

Commissioner Enright: "Not a single position has been created by the present police administration, but a large number of useless positions have been abolished at a very substantial saving to the city. For instance, three inspectors, a purchasing agent, a complaint clerk, an assistant electrical engineer, a superintendent of transportation, a superintendent of garage, a junior draftsman, several clerks and other positions have been abolished at an annual saving of \$50,000 a year."

Wallstein (last night): "He is eloquently silent as to the charge and therefore admits that he stated an untruth when he reported economies because civilian laborers and clerks have been forced out of the department, but

Woods Denies Story of Joy Rides on "Patrol"

COLONEL ARTHUR WOODS last night denied the assertions of Commissioner Enright that he had extended the courtesy of the police boat patrol for any joy rides with or without "lady tango artists" to any "leading journalists" or anyone else.

"With reference to the physical instructor from Groton school, this man was an old British cavalry man who had worked up a system of self-defense," Colonel Woods said. "He was engaged to teach this to the police training school and was paid at the same rate as at the Groton School."

"I know nothing about the alleged economies, but possibly if there were fewer false economies now there might be fewer burglaries."

I have had Enright's number for a good many years. The public is beginning to get it now."

suppressed the fact that policemen at higher salaries replaced them to do the same work.

Mr. Wallstein on Monday gave as an example of the alleged faulty administration of the department the elimination of the Bureau of Statistics.

Commissioner Enright: "The so-called Bureau of Statistics, which states have been abolished, which had twenty-five clerks and was maintained at a cost of \$40,000 annually, is now kept in the office of the chief clerk with a force of eight clerks and at a saving of many thousands of dollars."

Mr. Wallstein (last night): "While he now says that the Bureau of Statistics has been kept in his official departmental report for the first half of 1918 he boasted at page 19 that the Bureau of Statistics 'has been abolished.'"

In the course of the controversy Commissioner Enright makes some charges on his own account. These follow:

"Every other statement by Wallstein is equally untrue and can be easily shown to be absolutely incorrect and false. If the Wallstein-Citizens Union crowd had their way many of the old Mitchell-Wood favorites of the Police Department would still be enjoying soft details. All of this class of details have been abolished and these men are now doing actual patrol duty."

Claims Saving of \$640,000

"Wallstein, while Commissioner of Accounts under the Mitchell reform administration, did not investigate the appointment of about 3,000 special patrolmen made during the last eight months of 1917, many of whom were employed to guard the property of private individuals and corporations, such as the New York Central Railroad, at a total cost of \$1,080,000 to the city in 1917. During 1918 under my administration this force of special patrolmen was reduced and cost the city only \$440,000, showing a saving of \$640,000."

"Mr. Wallstein could have investigated the illegal appointment of about forty-five sergeants towards the close of the last administration, which did not provide any funds with which to pay their salaries in 1918. Also the \$100,000 which was appropriated and nearly all spent in the purchase of motorcars and other equipment for the Home Defense League. A vast amount of this equipment was never used, and public funds were thus willfully wasted."

"Joy Rides" for Journalist

"Wallstein, while on the payroll of the city as Commissioner of Accounts, could have investigated the former police administration, and would have found that one of the leading journalists of this city, which is now vilifying the present city and police administration, was extended the extraordinary courtesy of the Police Department's 'steamer patrol' for joy rides for himself and his lady tango artists up the Hudson and down the bay."

"These privileges are not granted by the present police administration. If such privileges were granted to certain journalists and newspapermen by this administration, I presume there would not be so many scurrilous and false statements made regarding the Police Department, which welcomes constructive criticism."

\$400 a Week for Instructor

"While on the payroll of the city Wallstein could have inquired the reason for paying a physical instructor, a personal friend of the former Police Commissioner, from Groton School, \$400 for the two weeks he is alleged to have given his services to the Police Training School."

"I call your attention to these facts mainly to show the falseness and insincerity of Wallstein's public statements."

When this letter was shown to Mr. Wallstein he issued the following statement:

"After taking three days to frame a reply to my statement with reference to his management of affairs, the Commissioner Enright follows his master's example in attempting to divert attention from specific charges by throwing up a smoke screen of words."

Children Unearth Clew To Riddell Girl Mystery

Pocketbook and Bits of Clothing Found Six Blocks From Scene of Murder

A pocketbook and bits of clothing stolen from the body of Mary Elizabeth Riddell after she had been murdered and left in a vacant lot near her parents' home in Glen Morris, Queens, January 15 last, were found yesterday in a vacant lot about six blocks away.

The articles were found by a group of children and taken from them by a policeman. Captain Cary, in charge of the homicide squad, hurried to Glen Morris and made an investigation. He said last night that he now evidence is expected which will lead to arrests.

Regarding Patrick O'Donnell, the epileptic, who was arrested in Yonkers, confessed the murder and was afterward released on an alibi established by relatives and others, Captain Cary said:

"There are no developments on which O'Donnell can be re-arrested for this crime. It has been legally proved that he had nothing to do with it."

Aliens Sail to Help Kin in Homelands

The White Star liner Megantic, which left port yesterday for Liverpool, will make a call at Havre to land 500 Greeks, Armenians, Czechoslovaks and Serbians, who occupied the greater part of her stowage accommodations. These passengers, who are on their way to their homelands to assist relatives who are in distress, were unable to get accommodations direct to the Mediterranean.

Among the Megantic's saloon passengers was Mrs. Donald Harper, treasurer of the Society to Help the Deaf, who is going to France to extend the system of service clubs and hotels throughout the territory occupied by American troops.

'War Babies' Made 7,000 Millionaires Here in a Year

Income Tax Returns Show Aladdin-Like Transformation From Virtual Poverty to Wealth Overnight

New York numbers among its citizens approximately 7,000 workmen of a year or more ago who can now laugh at the increased cost of living and its attending worries.

They were lifted out of the prosaic paths of the workaday world by the war and converted into millionaires. In many cases the transformation occurred in less than twelve months; in a few cases actually overnight.

Of these members of the city's great family of newly rich some are formerly of small-salaried office men, who have been able to catch on the tidal wave of rising values when the United States entered the war, and, almost

without a move on their part, were swept into the ranks of Wall Street's most favored class.

Revealed by Income Returns

These facts were revealed at the offices of the United States Collector of Internal Revenue yesterday, as the auditing of income taxes for this district was being rushed to completion. Just how much richer the new-made millionaires have become is not yet known and probably will not be for two weeks or more.

Recent estimates made public at Washington were that not fewer than 17,000 men and women had graduated into the millionaire class in the last two years. It is estimated that not fewer than 7,000 of their number, and possibly 10,000, are residents of New York. "Big Bill" Edwards, collector of internal revenue, will return to the city early next week, when he is expected to have accurate estimates on the percentage of increases in wealth and something approaching definite figures on the number of workers who left office stools to clip coupons and adorn mahogany topped desks.

Due to "War Babies"

At the office of the collector it was said the "war babies" on which many salaried men had had advance information had made it possible for them to invest small sums on margins and make unheard of profits. Women, many of whom had labored under no heavier responsibilities than handling limited

household accounts, suddenly were bitten by the Stock Market germ and became possessors of untold wealth without definite information as to how it all came about.

As to the number of men and women who lost their small savings in efforts to become rich quick, the collector's office has no figures. It is generally believed in Wall Street circles, however, that for every new millionaire there are at least a dozen ruined workers, who not only lost their savings, but the first impetus that made it possible for them to save.

1 Killed by Explosion in Long Island City Plant

Wing of Prest-O-Lite Factory Is Wrecked and Nearby Homes Damaged

An explosion wrecked a wing of the Prest-O-Lite Manufacturing Company, on Albert Street, near Eleventh Avenue, Long Island City, at 2:20 a. m. yesterday. William Purdy, an engineer, was killed. Two other employees who were in the building escaped with slight injuries. Windows were smashed, ceilings cracked or demolished and

crockery broken in most of the houses within two blocks.

Every house on the north side of Winthrop Avenue between Albert and Theodore streets was damaged. About thirty residents of the neighborhood were flung from their beds and slightly hurt. A ceiling fell on Mrs. George Mitchell, of 412 Winthrop Avenue, stunning her.

Fire followed the explosion and the firemen were hampered by the presence of quantities of calcium carbide which kept them from using water. The plant is a supply depot for the company's products. The Building Bureau took charge of the plant when the fire was extinguished, and will supervise the repair work.

Restaurant Owner Loses \$470 and Bond to Bandits

Four holdup men, who invaded the restaurant of Fisher Shapiro, on the second floor of 560 Grand Street, yesterday, took \$470 and a \$50 Liberty Bond from the proprietor's pockets and then bound him and his assistant, Max Cohen, with napkins. Shapiro extricated himself in time to see the robbers fleeing into Grand Street. He gave chase and attracted a crowd by his cries, but the bandits escaped.

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